

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08618

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, UR, GW
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: GERMAN IMPRESSIONS
OF SOVIET DELEGATION

REF: BONN 8564

1. SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN ME THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS OF LEADING MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION:
2. GROMYKO: HE WAS CLEARLY THE NUMBER TWO OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION. HE APPEARED TO BE IN VERY GOOD HEALTH AND HIS INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN POLICY FORMULATION WAS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. BLECH COMMENTED THAT GROMYKO LOOKED AFTER BREZHNEV LIKE "A MOTHER HEN."
3. KOVALEV: HE APPEARED TO BE RATHER INFLUENTIAL AND OVERSHADOWED SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN.
4. TIKHONOV: HE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE ACTIVE PHYSICALLY THAN BREZHNEV, DESPITE HIS AGE. HE MADE
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A GOOD IMPRESSION ON HIS GERMAN HOSTS.

5. ALEXANDROV AND BLATOV: BOTH WERE BREZHNEV'S CONSTANT COMPANIONS. THEY ATTENDED ALL OF BREZHNEV'S MEETINGS, INCLUDING HIS TETE-A-TETES WITH SCHMIDT. WHEN GERMAN PROTOCOL OFFICIALS CALLED THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS THEY WERE TOLD

SIMPLY THAT ALEXANDROV AND BLATOV WERE ALWAYS PRESENT
AT BREZHNEV'S MEETINGS.

6. FALIN: THE GERMANS THOUGHT HIS INFLUENCE WITH
GROMYKO HAD DECREASED. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY,
FALIN IS EXPECTED TO BE TRANSFERRED SOON. SEVERAL
NAMES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS HIS SUCCESSOR WITH THAT
OF LAPIN THE MOST
FREQUENTLY HEARD.

7. BONDARENKO: HE WAS DESCRIBED AS A RELIABLE
APPARATCHIK AND NOT A LEADING FIGURE IN THE SOVIET
DELEGATION.

8. MAKAROV: HE CONTRIBUTED LITTLE TO THE DISCUSSIONS.
STOESSEL

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